

FROM THE PRESIDENT OF NAEP

Bruce Hasbrouck

By the time you're reading this, the planning for the 2002 NAEP Conference in Dearborn is almost complete and registrations are coming in. The committee has worked many hours to prepare a program and associated activities that will provide participants with a most enriching and enjoyable occasion. This year's Co-Chairs are Ron Deverman of Parsons Transportation Group in Chicago and Robert Anderson of CTI & Associates in Brighton, Michigan. Ron is working on the technical side of the conference, and Robert is handling the logistical issues. The Michigan Chapter is providing a lot of support, as is our Conference Coordinator, Donna Carter. Numerous others have contributed to the effort, and I encourage you to visit our Web site to see their results. I look forward to another outstanding conference.

Another area of effort that is equally involved, and just as important, is our ongoing National Involvement Initiative. NAEP is reaching out to agencies, universities, and other organizations to participate in decision making that will affect our profession. As an example, a group led by Jim Melton of Portage Environmental in Idaho Falls is working closely with the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) to consider how NEPA affects projects and the role environmental professionals have in the process. Lucy Schwartz of Battelle Memorial Institute in Washington, DC, Bob Cunningham with the US Forest Service in Washington, DC, and Charles Eccleston in Richland, Washington, are playing integral roles in the effort.

The election process for the Board of Directors is underway. Each year, the term is up for four of the twelve elected Board members. The Board members whose terms are expiring are Helene Merkel, Norm Arnold, Fred Pinkney, and George Wood. Each of these individuals has provided outstanding results in several endeavors, including revisions to the NAEP



is an Environmental Professional. Their writing is based on their frame of reference, and is an opportunity for learning more about our practice.

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Handbook and bylaws, a balanced budget and appropriate spending, the Awards program, and our business plan. Each of these efforts continues to provide a solid foundation for our Association.

Nominations for new Board members can be provided by accessing our Web site. If you are interested in participating in a rewarding experience, it is acceptable to nominate yourself. In fact, it is actually encouraged, as you can be the best judge of your ability to make the commitment. While the position does require one to travel annually to four separate Board meetings and to be regularly involved during the course of the three-year term, the numerous chances to represent our profession and affect the future of the organization is well worth the time. The professional development that is obtained from continuous involvement with various types of environmental professionals cannot be easily measured. Finally, the recognition that your company or agency gains from the quality representation provided has great value.

This issue of *Environmental Practice* is filled with practical information about numerous aspects of our profession. I encourage you to take the time to read each article, even if it appears the topic is not within your area of practice. Our profession is filled with numerous examples of interlocking knowledge and experience. Who knows where someone else's understanding may affect our own? Remember, every author, book reviewer, or contributing editor